

REMARKS

The Office action of December 16, 2005, has been carefully considered.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Although Claim 1 has now been canceled, certain of the terminology objected to in Claim 1 was also found in Claim 59, and Claim 59 has now been amended to remove the terminology alleged to be indefinite.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 59 and 60 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Hebert in view of Reid.

The invention is directed to a device for cleaning dogs comprising a basin having a bottom and a side wall, with a perforated intermediate bottom arranged inside the space enclosed by the basin. Underneath the intermediate bottom there is arranged a first branch of an air supply system having air outlet openings distributed uniformly over the base surface which are directed laterally and/or downwards.

Hebert has been cited to show a cleaning device for dogs comprising a basin having a perforated intermediate bottom. While Hebert does not teach the use of an air supply system, Reid has been cited to show a footrest for animal hydrotherapy in which the footrest is connected to an air supply system and has a plurality of upwardly directed air outlets.

In order to arrive at the claimed invention, one would not only need to place the air outlets of Reid below the footrest of Hebert, but one would also need to direct the air outlets laterally or downwardly, so that the air is not directed at the feet of the animal. Neither Hebert nor Reid, however, suggest such an arrangement. If anything, the combination of the references would suggest nothing more than placing the footrest of Reid in the bath of Hebert, and this

certainly does not constitute the claimed invention.

The references taken as a whole do not disclose or suggest placing an air outlet means below the footrest of the bath, and directing the air outlets laterally and/or downwardly, an arrangement which leads to a more comfortable bubble-enhanced washing of the feet of the animal than directing bubbles directly at the soles of the feet.

As the references taken as a whole do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The allowability of Claims 61 through 70 has been noted.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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